



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Stephen J. Murphy  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001  
211 West Fort Street  
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277  
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

**For Immediate Release:**

**Contact:** Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

June 27, 2006

---

**EVENT: Indictment**

**Defendant: William Lee Sparks**

**MAN INDICTED FOR DISTRIBUTING FENTANYL THAT CAUSED DEATH**

---

Oakland County resident William Lee Sparks, 56, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit on charges of illegally distributing Fentanyl that caused the death of another individual who used the drug, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Daniel D. Roberts, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard, Oakland County Sheriff's Office.

The two-count indictment charges that between 2003 and September 5, 2005, Sparks distributed Fentanyl and other controlled substances in the Eastern District of Michigan. In particular, the indictment alleges that Sparks distributed Fentanyl between September 2 and 5, 2005 to a person identified as "J.L.C." The indictment further charges that on September 12, 2005, the individual identified as "J.L.C." died as a result of his use of the Fentanyl distributed to him by Sparks. Sparks also is charged with distributing codeine, Vicodin, oxycodone, hydrocodone, and Percocet.

"These charges underscore the seriousness with which my office and the FBI view the distribution and use of Fentanyl, as well as our strong commitment to investigating and prosecuting cases involving these highly dangerous substances," U.S. Attorney Murphy said.

“We are committed to using all resources available to protect the community from the horrors caused by the illegal distribution of dangerous prescription medications like Fentanyl.”

SAC Robert, said: “This indictment today demonstrates lives are literally at stake when patients illegally provide controlled substances to third parties and how local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies are working together to address the critical issue involving the controlled substance known as Fentanyl.”

Sheriff Bouchard, said “This case demonstrates the significant benefits that can come from agencies working together towards a common goal. The Sheriff’s office is pleased to have been part of this important investigation.”

The charge of Distribution of Controlled Substances carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 20 years in prison. Any sentence in this case will be imposed under the federal Sentencing Guidelines based on the nature of the offense and the criminal background, if any, of the defendant.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by agents and detectives of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, the FBI, the Department of Veterans Affairs--Office of Inspector General, and the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Gardey.